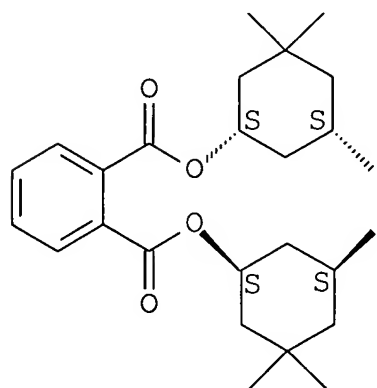


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

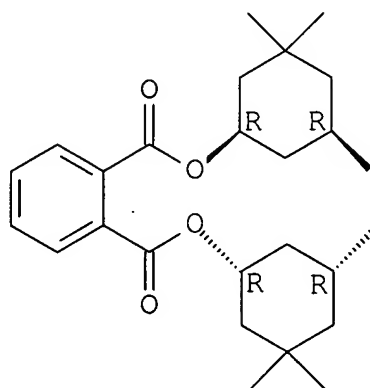
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

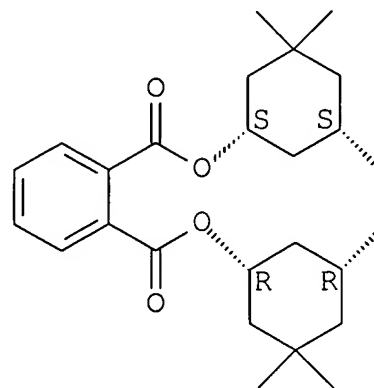
1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising Bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) and satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



(3)

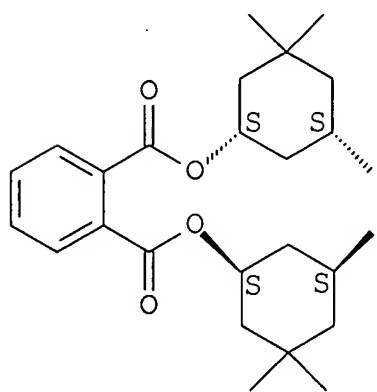
$$a+b+c=100, \text{ and } 50 < a+b \text{ or } 50 < c$$

wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by the Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively.

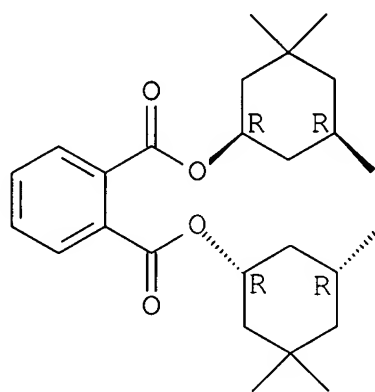
2. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate, comprising the steps of:

allowing cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanol to react with phthalic acid or a reactive derivative thereof; and

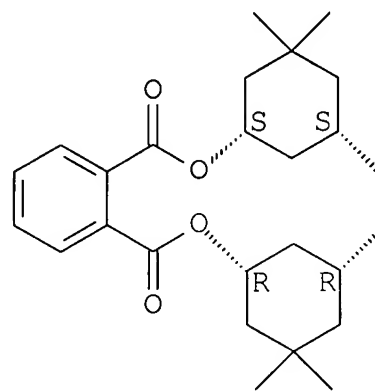
purifying the resulting mixture of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate to thereby yield bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



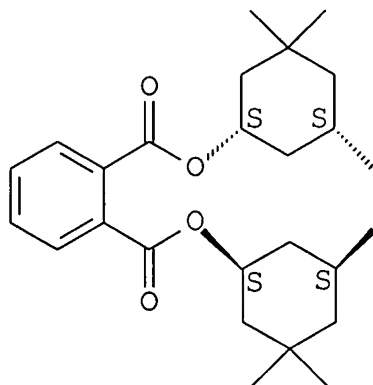
(3)

$$a+b+c=100 \text{ and } 50 < a+b \text{ or } 50 < c$$

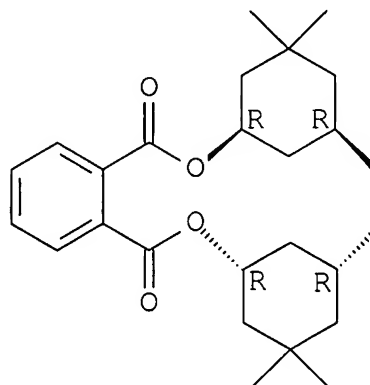
wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by the Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively.

3. (Original) The process for the preparation of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate according to claim 2, wherein the mixture of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate is purified by crystallization.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising purified ~~dl-Bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl)~~ dl-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate comprising a compound represented by the following Formula (1) and a compound represented by the following Formula (2):



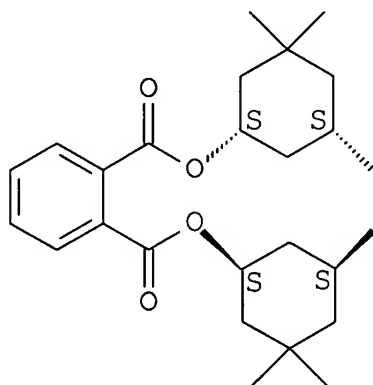
(1)



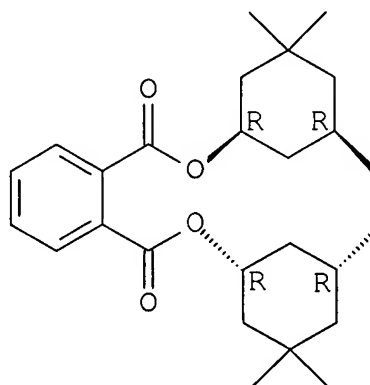
(2)

÷

5. (Currently Amended) An optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (1) or (2):



(1)



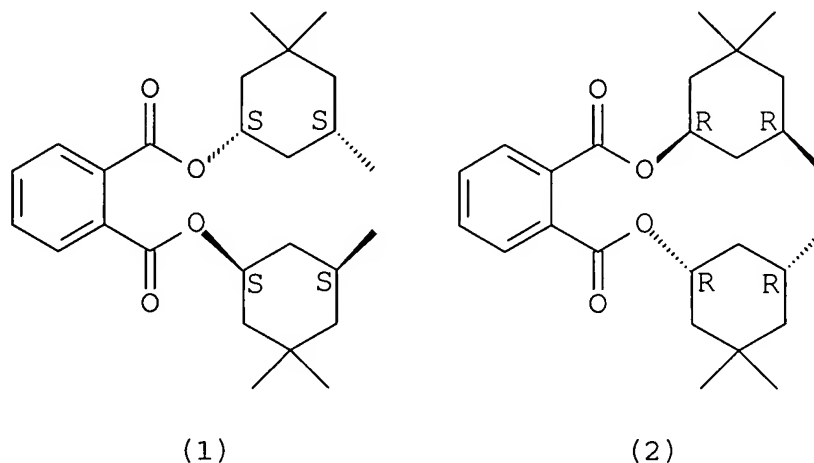
(2)

÷

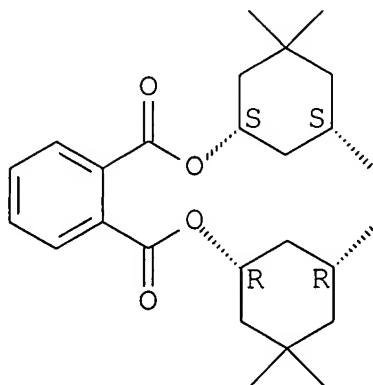
6. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an optically active bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate, comprising the steps of:

allowing cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexanol to react with phthalic acid or a reactive derivative thereof; and

optically resolving the resulting mixture of stereoisomers of bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate to thereby yield an optically active bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (1) or (2):



7. (Currently Amended) Purified ~~meso-Bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl)~~ meso-bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate represented by the following Formula (3):

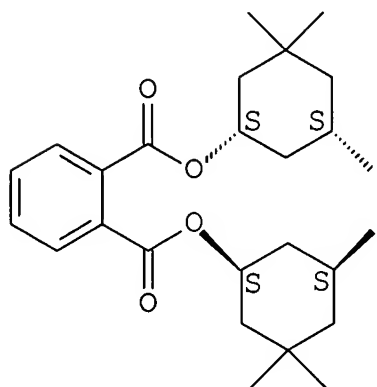


(3)

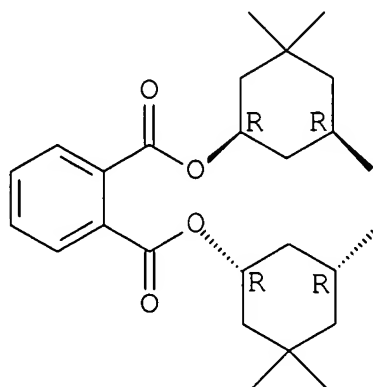
8. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic resin composition, comprising:

a thermoplastic resin; and

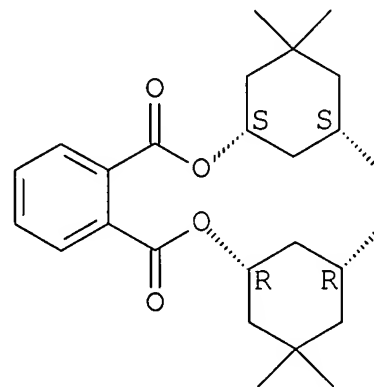
a solid plasticizer, the solid plasticizer comprising stereoisomers represented by the following Formulae (1), (2) and (3) and satisfying the following conditions:



(1)



(2)



(3)

$$a+b+c=100, \text{ and } 50 < a+b \text{ or } 50 < c$$

wherein a, b and c are mole percentages of the stereoisomers represented by Formulae (1), (2) and (3), respectively.

9. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition according to claim 8, further comprising a tackifier.

10. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition according to claim 8 or 9, which is an aqueous composition including the thermoplastic resin dispersed in water.

11. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive tacky adhesive comprising the thermoplastic resin composition as claimed in claim 8 or 9.

12. (Original) A heat-sensitive tacky adhesive sheet comprising a base sheet and a tacky adhesive layer formed at least on one side of the base sheet, the tacky adhesive layer comprising the heat-sensitive tacky adhesive as claimed in claim 11.

13. (Original) A process for the production of a heat-sensitive tacky adhesive sheet, comprising the step of applying the heat-sensitive tacky adhesive as claimed in claim 11 at least on one side of a base sheet to thereby form a tacky adhesive layer.

Application No. 10/069,886

Art Unit 1712

February 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action Dated November 3, 2003

14. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b exceeds 51 mol %.

15. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is equal to or more than 54 mol%.

16. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is more than 56 mol %.

17. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of a+b is more than 60 mol %.

18. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 50%.

19. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 51%.

20. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 56%.

21. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 60%.

Application No. 10/069,886

Art Unit 1712

February 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action Dated November 3, 2003

22. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the proportion of c is more than 80%.

23. (New) The optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate of claim 5, which has Formula (1).

24. (New) The optically active and purified bis(cis-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl) phthalate of claim 5, which has Formula (2).

25. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein $50 < a+b$.

26. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein $50 < c$.